

had broken silence only to ask one of the servants what o'clock it was. As soon as Bonaparte had taken his coffee he dismissed all the attendants, and I remained alone with him. I saw in the expression of his countenance what was passing in his mind, and I knew that my hour was come. He stepped up to me—he was trembling, and *I* shuddered; he took my hand, pressed it to his heart, and after gazing at me for a few moments in silence he uttered these fatal words : ' Josephine! my dear Josephine ! You know how I have loved you ! . . . To you, to you alone, I owe the only moments of happiness I have tasted in this world. But, Josephine, my destiny is not to be controlled by my will. My dearest affections must yield to the interests of France/ — ' Say no more/ I exclaimed, ' I understand you; I expected this, but the blow is not the less mortal.' I could not say another word," continued Josephine; " I know not what happened after I seemed to lose my reason; I became insensible, and when I recovered I found myself in my chamber. Your friend Gorvisart and my poor daughter were with me. Bonaparte came to see me in the evening; and oh! Bourrienne, how can I describe to you what I felt at the sight of him; even the interest he evinced for me seemed an additional cruelty. Alas ! I had good reason to fear ever becoming an Empress ! "

I knew not what consolation to offer to Josephine; and knowing as I did the natural lightness of her character, I should have been surprised to find her grief so acute, after the lapse, of a year, had I not been aware that there are certain chords which, when struck, do not speedily cease to vibrate in the heart of a woman. I sincerely pitied Josephine, and among all the things I said to assuage her sorrow, the consolation to which she appeared most sensible was the reprobation which public opinion had pronounced on Bonaparte's divorce, and on this subject I said, nothing but the truth, for Josephine was generally beloved. I reminded her of a prediction I had made under happier circumstances, viz. on the day when she came to visit us in our little house at Euel. "My dear friend," said she, "I have not forgotten it, and I have often thought of all you then said. For my part,